



**MICHIGAN**

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**SENATORS**

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## **Stabenow, Levin Announce \$995,321 for Metropolitan/Wayne County Airport Rail Project**

WASHINGTON – Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin (D-MI) announced today that the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has been awarded two grants, one for \$500,000 and another for \$495,321 totaling \$995,321 from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The funds will be used for Phase II of the Metro Airport Rail Study, which must be completed before construction of the transit system can begin. The Senators included the funding in the FY-2001 and FY-2002 Transportation Appropriations bills.

"I have worked hard to ensure that funds are allocated to this project so that a rail link from the airport to downtown can become a reality," said Levin. "Improved public transportation to and from the airport is long overdue. As a frequent traveler to Metro Airport, I know what a difference this new transit system will make. It will be an added convenience for many air travelers, and will give airport employees who live in downtown Detroit easier access to their jobs."

"Michigan citizens are on the move and our roads are becoming increasingly congested. This funding is an important step in providing commuters and travelers with fast and convenient alternatives to car travel," said Stabenow. "I am eager to see the results of this phase of the study. This is an important step in a bringing safe and efficient rapid transit system to the people of Southeast Michigan."

SEMCOG plans to develop a rapid transit route that would begin in downtown Detroit, pass through Taylor, and end at Metro Airport. Phase I of the feasibility study is complete and the funds from DOT's Federal Transit Administration will help fund Phase II. The second phase will provide an alternative analysis for the corridor, using the results from Phase I and taking into account National Environmental and Policy Act requirements and guidelines.

SEMCOG was awarded \$500,000 as part of an FY-2002 grant and awarded the \$495,321 as part of a FY-2001 grant. The FY-2001 money is being distributed now, along with the FY-2002 funds because Phase II of the study is just now ready to begin.

To view the report from Phase I, visit:  
[http://www.semco.org/products/pdfs/ddma\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.semco.org/products/pdfs/ddma_Final_Report.pdf)